

Docket 60873  
Serial No. 10/706,688

PATENT APPLICATION

**REMARKS**

This is in full and timely response to the Office Action on the merits dated January 26, 2005. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 6-13 and 16-19 remain in this application with claims 6, 10, and 17 being independent. Claims 6-9, 11-13, and 16-19 stand allowed.


As Examiner Conley concluded in a telephone discussion with Justin Poplin (Pat. Reg. No. 53,476) and Dale Ream (Pat. Reg. No. 45,798) on February 8, 2005, the current rejection of claim 10 can not stand because the cited art does not disclose a "support arm mechanically associated with the upright member for rotating said support arm along with the boom, said support arm being positioned to engage a floor to transfer the vertical force of a patient's weight into the floor" (claim 10). The Dalton support arm 58 is not "positioned to engage a floor to transfer the vertical force of a patient's weight into the floor", but is instead more analogous to the applicant's linear actuator 24. Since the prior does not disclose, teach, or suggest the support arm 55 set forth in claim 10 (and pages 12-13 of the specification as filed), the rejection of claim 10 should be withdrawn and this application should proceed immediately to allowance. As discussed over the telephone, a Petition to Make Special has been granted for this application based on the applicant's advanced age. Since no rejections or objections remain in this application and a Petition to Make Special has been granted, the applicant respectfully request that this application proceed to allowance as quickly as possible. If there is anything that the applicant can do to facilitate this, the examiner is respectfully asked to contact the applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Date: February 8, 2005

  
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